

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND,

Conveened at *Edinburgh*, the 5th of May, 1726.

Collected and Extraèted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.



EDINBURGH:

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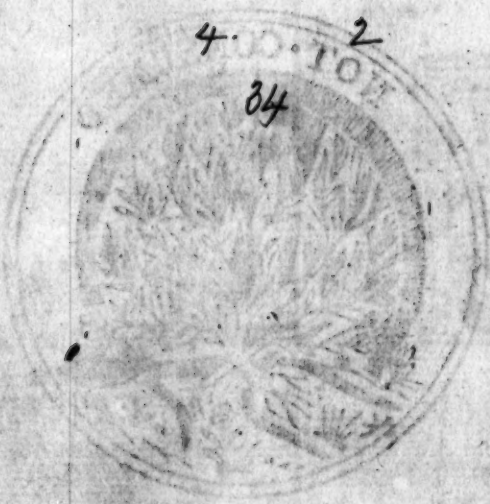
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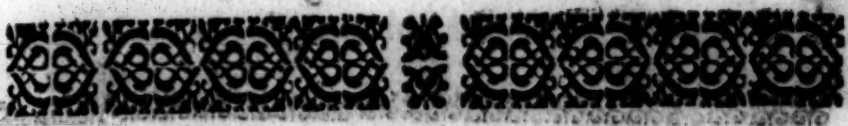
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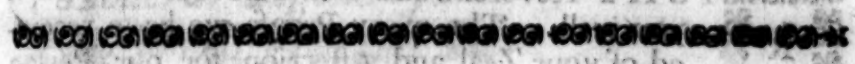


THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Church of SCOTLAND,

Holden and begun at *Edinburgh* upon *Thursday* the 5th Day of *May* 1726, and ending the 18th Day of that same Month and Year.



I
The King's Commission to Hugh Earl of Loudoun produced, and ordered to be recorded.

At Edinburgh, 5th May 1726, Sess. 1.



THE General Assembly of the Ministers and Ruling Elders of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable *Hugh Earl of Loudoun*, His Majesty's Commission, seal'd with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union betwixt the two Kingdoms

of *Scotland* and *England*, to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, of the same Tenor with the Commission granted by His Majesty to the fore-said Earl in the Year 1722, appointing him His Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this National Assembly: Which Commission being publickly read, with all due Honour and Respect, the General Assembly ordered the same to be recorded in their Registers, *ad futuram rei memoriam.*

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The ACTS of the

II.

*The King's most gracious Letter to
the General Assembly, presented to
them by His Majesty's Commissioner,
May 5th, 1726. Sess. I.*

GEORGE R.

RIGHT Reverend and Well-beloved. We greet
you well. The many Proofs we have receiv-
ed of your Zeal and Affection for our Person
and Government, of your Care and Concern
for the Peace and Welfare of the Church, for
the suppressing of Prophaneness and Immorality, and the
preventing the Growth of Popery, have induced Us most
willingly to approve your present Meeting, and to coun-
tenance the same with our Royal Authority; not doub-
ing but you come together with the same good Disposi-
tions you have formerly shewn in so eminent a Manner,
and with a Resolution to do all that in you lies towards
promoting the desirable Ends and Purposes beforemen-
tioned; in the doing of which you may be well assured
of our Protection and Assistance, being always ready to
contribute to so pious a Work, and which so nearly con-
cerns the Honour of God, the Peace and Quiet of our
Government, and the Welfare of our Subjects.

As we are firmly resolved to maintain the established
Government of the Church, in that Part of our King-
dom of *Great Britain*, in the full Enjoyment of all their
Rights and Privileges; We doubt not but you on your
Part will conduct your selves with that Moderation and
Unanimity in all your Debates and Councils, and with
that Prudence in all your Proceedings, which become so
venerable an Assembly, and which will further entitle
you to our Royal Favour.

We have again made Choice of our right trusty and
right Well-beloved Cousin and Counsellor *Hugh Earl of
London*, to represent Our Royal Person in this present
Assembly, not doubting but the Experience you have
had of his great Knowledge and Capacity, as well as of
his

his Zeal for our Service, and his Adherence to the Principles of the Church of Scotland, and Concern for its Prosperity, will make him acceptable to you. And so we bid you heartily farewell. Given at Our Court at St. James's, the Twelfth Day of April, One thousand seven hundred and twenty six, in the Twelfth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

HOLLIS NEWCASTLE.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

Edinburgh, May 7th, 1726. Sess. 3.

May it please your Majesty,

***** E Your Majesty's most Loyal and Faithful Sub-
 jects, the Ministers and Elders met in the
 W General Assembly of the Church of Scotland,
 ***** do, as in all Duty bound, return Your Ma-
 jesty our most humble and hearty Thanks for Your graci-
 ous Letter to us, and for Your great Goodness in light-
 nifying Your favourable Acceptance of the Zeal and Af-
 fection of this Church for Your Majesty's Royal Person
 and Government; Duties which we account ourselves
 bound to by the strongest Obligations. And that Your
 Majesty is pleased graciously to take Notice of the Con-
 cern we have shewn for the Peace and Welfare of the
 Church, for the suppressing of Profaneness and Immorali-
 ty, and preventing the Growth of Popery, animates us
 to exert ourselves yet the more in these Duties, under the
 great Encouragement given us by Your Majesty's approv-
 ing our present Meeting, and countenancing the same with
 Your Royal Authority; and it shall be our earnest Care
 to shew the like Dispositions as formerly, to do all that
 in us lies towards the promoting these desirable Ends and
 Purposes. The Assurances Your Majesty is graciously
 pleased to give us of Your Royal Protection and Assistance
 in doing of the same, and of Your Readiness to counte-

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nance us in so pious a Work, which so nearly concerns the Honour of GOD, the Peace and Quiet of Your Government, and Welfare of Your Subjects, make us deeply sensible of the great Kindness of Heaven in blessing us with such a Sovereign, and are such Encouragements from a Prince piously disposed, and who has so much at Heart the Weal of his Subjects, as must render us without Excuse, should we be remiss in our Duty.

It is most comforting to us, and gives us a full Confidence in Your Majesty's Royal Goodness, that You are graciously pleased to renew the Assurances of Your firm Resolution to maintain the established Government of this Church in the full Enjoyment of all their Rights and Privileges; these being what we have exceedingly at Heart, and do judge ourselves the more strongly obliged, by these Your Majesty's gracious Assurances, to conduct ourselves on our Part with that Moderation, Unanimity and Prudence that become us, and which may entitle us humbly to hope for the Continuance of Your Majesty's Royal Favour.

YOUR Majesty's pious and bountiful Donation to the last Assembly of a Sum to be employed in maintaining Itinerant Preachers and Catechists in Places where Ignorance and Popery prevail, for remedying these Evils, we humbly hope will be found to have been exactly managed according to Your Majesty's gracious Intentions, as will appear by the Accounts of the Management ready to be exhibited to Your Majesty's Lord High Treasurer, or Commissioners of Your Majesty's Treasury, or to the Barons of Your Majesty's Court of Exchequer in *Scotland*, as Your Majesty was graciously pleased to direct: And now that Your Majesty has, out of Your Royal Goodness and laudable Concern for the Good of the Souls of Your Subjects, been pleased to renew Your Royal Gift to this Assembly for the like pious Purposes, which Your Majesty's Commissioner has delivered to us, we accept it with the most profound Respect and Thankfulness, and shall endeavour not to be wanting on our Part, to employ it agreeably to Your Majesty's Royal Will, and account for it, as Your Majesty has appointed in Your Royal Warrant; and in this we act with great Cheerfulness, seeing, as we are bound to promote Obedience to Your Majesty's just Laws, the Tendency of our Endeavours is to make those upon whom we bestow our Labours, in so far as we succeed by the Blessing of GOD, at the same Time better Subjects to Your Majesty, as they are made better Christians. And for this End, all Care shall be taken by us, that none be employed in this Service but such as are unquestionably well-affected

affected to Your Majesty and Your auspicious Government. And we shall be careful to take all those we employ strictly engaged to instill in the People the Principles of Loyalty and Duty to Your Majesty.

YOUR Majesty's Choice of the Earl of Loudoun to represent Your Royal Person in this Assembly, we acknowledge thankfully as a special Mark of Your Regard to the Good of this Church, having had Experience of his great Knowledge and Capacity, and of his Zeal for Your Majesty's Service; and it gives us particular Satisfaction, that Your Majesty is pleased to mention, as a Reason of Your Choice, his Adherence to the Principles of this Church, and Concern for its Prosperity, of which he has given many convincing Proofs.

THAT Your Majesty's precious Life, which is so great a Blessing to all Your People, and the whole Protestant Interest, may be long preserved; That the best of Heaven's Blessings may be plentifully poured out upon Your Royal Person, the Prince of Wales, the Princess and all Your Royal Off-spring; That Your wise Councils and Undertakings for the Happiness of Your own Kingdoms, the Relief of distressed and persecuted Protestants, the Welfare of all the reformed Churches, and the Good of Christendom, may be crowned with remarkable Success; That the Designs of all Your secret and avowed Enemies may be defeated; That your Crown may long flourish upon Your Head, and at length You may inherit immortal Glory, are and shall be the earnest Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient and most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our Presence, in our Name, and at our Appointment, by

WILL. MITCHEL Moderator.

IV.

*Act erecting the Presbytery of Tong, and
Synod of Caithness.**Edinburgh, May 11th, 1726. Sess. 6.*

THE General Assembly taking to their Consideration a Proposal made to the late Assembly, concerning the erecting of a Presbytery in *Strathnaver*, with the Opinion of the late Commission in that Matter; And having heard the Brethren from the Presbyteries concerned, and it being informed, that the Ministers of the Parishes after-named, whereof this Presbytery is to consist, are some of them Twenty four, others Forty, and Forty two, and one of them Fifty two Miles distant from the Seat of their Presbyteries, so that they can seldom attend the same, which is very uneasy both to Ministers and People; and that by this Erection, Brethren will have for the most Part but one Half of that Way to travel to the Presbytery hereby erected: And finding that there have been of late diverse new Parishes erected in the foresaid Bounds, and that there will be a competent Number of Ministers in the Presbyteries of *Dornoch* and *Caithness*, besides the Brethren of that new Presbytery; and judging that the Erections after-mentioned may tend to the Interest of Religion, and Advantage of the Country, do therefore disjoin the Parishes of *Diurness*, *Edrachillis*, *Tong* and *Far*, from the Presbytery of *Caithness*, and the Parishes of *Kildonan* and *Assint* from the Presbytery of *Dornoch*; and do hereby erect those six Parishes into a Presbytery by themselves, to be called, *the Presbytery of Tong*, and to have their Meetings for ordinary at *Tong*; and do appoint their first Meeting to be there, upon the first *Wednesday* of *October* next to come; And until all the Parishes in that Presbytery be fully planted, the General Assembly appoints the Presbyteries of *Dornoch* and *Caithness* to send Correspondents to the Presbytery of *Tong*; and likewise considering, that the Presbytery of *Caithness* was by the last Assembly disjoined from the Synod of *Orkney*, for the Reasons mentioned in the Act made to that Effect, and that the Presbyteries of *Caithness*, *Dornoch* and *Orkney* were formerly a Synod, and that it would be a Hardship to oblige the Presbytery of *Caithness* to attend the Synod of *Ross* twice in the Year, because of the

the great Distance, and it being the Assembly's Intention to make the Meetings of Synods as easy as possible to all concerned; therefore they do disjoin the Presbytery of *Dornoch* from the Synod of *Ross*, and hereby erect the Presbyteries of *Dornoch*, *Caithness* and *Tong* into a Provincial Synod, to be called, *the Synod of Caithness and Sutherland*; and ordain their ordinary Meetings to be at least once a Year at *Dornoch* and *Thurso* per vices, and their first Diet to be at *Dornoch* the third *Wednesday* of *June* 1727; and do appoint that Synod to send Correspondents to the Synods of *Ross* and *Orkney*, and the said two Synods to send Correspondents to the Synod of *Caithness* and *Sutherland*. And the General Assembly declares the foresaid Synod and Presbyteries therein, to have the same Powers and Privileges, which any other Synod or Presbtery have by the Word of *GOD*, and Constitutions of this Church.

V.

Act appointing a solemn National Fast.

Edinburgh, May 16th, 1726. Sess. II.

THE General Assembly taking into their serious Consideration, the many weighty Causes of solemn Fasting and Humiliation before *GOD*, by Reason of abounding Sin, and the withdrawing of his Presence from his Ordinances, and the Power of his Spirit in a great Measure; That gross Ignorance, Errors, Impiety, Profaneness, and Immoralities of all Sorts do prevail: And also considering the great Growth of *Papery* in diverse Parts of the Land, and how much the Practice of serious Religion is neglected, the Holy Laws of *GOD*, and the Precious Gospel of his ever Blessed SON our SAVIOUR are contemn'd: That Pride, Luxury, Dishonesty and Uncharitableness, are arrived to so great a Height; and that Perjury and other gross Impieties and Immoralities are so common in the Land, and so little laid to Heart and mourned over, whereby a Holy *GOD* is greatly provoked: And that all those Evils are aggravated by the Height of Ingratitude to *GOD*, to whom we stand engag'd by the strongest Ties and Obligations, who by a

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long Tract of merciful Providences has dealt most kindly with us, in sparing us, and preserving unto us our valuable Liberties and Reformed Religion, for which he has often signally interposed, especially by the late Glorious Revolution, and the happy Accession of his present Majesty King GEORGE to the Throne, Events never to be forgotten: And that these Sins do still prevail, notwithstanding his Majesty's good Laws against Vice, and his Royal Proclamation, out of a true Zeal for the Glory of GOD, for putting the same in Execution; and in a Time of clear Light of the Gospel, and pure Administration of the Ordinances of CHRIST, by contemning of which the Guilt of these Sins is aggravated to a high Degree.

AND considering that by these Things we are exposed to the Hazard of calamitous Judgments, if God, of his infinite Mercy, for the Sake of our LORD and SAVIOUR, prevent it not; and that our Protestant Brethren abroad have had barbarous Cruelty exercised upon them, and are still groaning under great Hardships and Persecution; The General Assembly does therefore most seriously call, and exhort all to the Duties of solemn Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, upon such a Day as His Majesty shall please to appoint, the Assembly having made humble Application to him for naming the Day, and for interposing His Royal Authority for the due Observation of the same: And hereby all are earnestly obtestated to apply to the said Duties seriously and devoutly, mourning for, and endeavouring Reformation of these Evils, and for that End to put up fervent Prayers for the plentiful Effusion of the HOLY SPIRIT, to give Power and Efficacy to the blessed Gospel, and enable us to practise the Duties of Repentance toward GOD, and Faith toward our LORD JESUS CHRIST, for Mercy through his Blood, the only Attonement, that deserved Judgments may be averted, and that GOD may continue his precious Blessings with us, and give us Grace to improve them.

THAT he may long preserve our Gracious Sovereign, and eminently bless the Prince of Wales, the Princess and all the Royal Family; That he may direct and prosper his Majesty's Councils and Enterprizes for the Good of his own Subjects, and the Preservation of the Peace of *Christendom*, and Relief of our persecuted Protestant Brethren in Foreign Parts; That he would strengthen and support them under their Afflictions, defeat the Attempts of their Adversaries, provide in Mercy for their speedy Deliverance, and over-rule the great Affairs now in Agitation for that End; And that GOD would be graciously pleased

pleased to disappoint the restless Endeavours of these who are Enemies to our Religion and Liberties; and that he may bless Endeavours in Prosecution of the encouraging Means His Majesty hath afforded for removing Ignorance, and putting a Stop to the Growth of Popery; And that GOD may be graciously pleased to continue the Blessing of seasonable Weather, joining Thankfulness for the remarkable Favour he hath shown us this Way. And the Assembly enjoins all Ministers to take Care that this Fast be duly observed, and for this Cause to intimate this Act from their Pulpits upon the LORD's Day preceeding the Day that shall be appointed by His Majesty for the Observation thereof, and to take Occasion to excite the People to their Duty, with grave and serious Exhortations suitable to the Occasion.

VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling-Elders, for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for Management of the King's Bounty for that End.

Edinburgh, May 16th, 1726. Sess. 11.

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 HE General Assembly taking into their Consideration, That it has pleased the King's Majesty, out of His Royal Bounty, again this Year to grant the Sum of One thousand Pound *Sterling*, to encourage Itinerant Preachers and Catechists to go to the *Highlands* and *Islands*, for instructing the People there in the Principles of the true Religion, do hereby nominate, commissionate and appoint the Reverend Mr. *William Mitchel* one of the Ministers of *Edinburgh* their Moderator, Mr. *William Wischart* Principal of the College of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *William Hamilton* Professor of Divinity there, Mr. *Matthew Crawford* Professor of Ecclesiastick History there, Mr. *John Flint* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. *Robert Sandilands* there, Mr. *James Hart* there, Mr. *John McLaren* there, Mr.

Lauchlan M'Intosh at Errol, Mr. George Clephan at New-
tild, Mr. Allan Logan at Culross, Mr. James Hadow Prin-
cipal of the New-College of St. Andrews, Mr. Thomas
Blackwell Principal of the College of New-Aberdeen, Mr.
George Chalmers Principal of the King's College of Aber-
deen, Mr. David Anderson Professor of Divinity there,
Mr. Hugh Innes at Morlith, Mr. John Crockat at Dallas,
Mr. Alexander M'Bean at Inverness, Mr. William Stewart
there, Mr. John Schaw at Leith, Mr. Samuel Semple at
Libertoun, Mr. James Grierson at Edinburgh, Mr. William
Miller there, Mr. Neil M'Vicar at St. Cuthberts, Mr. Walter
Allan at Collingtoun, Mr. James Craig at Edinburgh, Mr.
James Walker at Canongate, Mr. James Nisbet at Edin-
burgh, Mr. John Brand at Borrowstouness, Mr. David
Walker at Temple, Mr. William M'George at Pennycook,
Mr. James Alston at Dirletoun, Mr. James Christie at Mor-
bottle, Mr. Patrick Cuming at Lochmaben, Mr. Robert Se-
ton at Glassertoun, Mr. John Stirling Principal of the
College of Glasgow, Mr. William Hamilton at Bothwel,
Mr. Neil Campbel at Renfrew, Mr. Robert Wodrow at East-
wood, Mr. Alexander Campbell at Inverary, Mr. James
Gilchrist at Kilmalie, Mr. James Smith at Garloch, Mr.
Daniel M'Aulay at Braccadale, Mr. Colin Mackenzie at
Lacks, Mr. William Guthart at Edinburgh, Mr. James
Smith at Cramond, Mr. John Mathison at Edinburgh, Mr.
James Bannatyne there, Mr. Matthew Wood there, Mr.
John Walker at Canongate, Mr. George Fordice at Corstor-
phin, Mr. William Brown at Edinburgh, Mr. John Hepburn
there, and Mr. James Stevenson at South-Leith Ministers ;
Sir Hugh Dalrymple of Northberwick Lord President of the
Session, Duncan Forbes Esq; Lord Advocate, Adam Cock-
burn of Ormistaun Lord Justice-Clerk, Mr. James Erskine
of Grange, Sir Walter Pringle of Newhall, two of the Sena-
tors of the College of Justice, George Drummond Esq; Lord
Provost of Edinburgh, Colonel John Erskine of Carnock,
Sir James Campbell of Aheruchit, Sir James Stewart of Good-
trees, Sir Duncan Campbell of Lochuel, Mr. Robert Dun-
das younger of Arnistoun, Mr. James Boswel of Auchin-
lack, Mr. Charles Erskine of Barjaig His Majesty's Soli-
citor, Mr. Alexander Hamilton younger of Pancharland,
Mr. Hugh Dalrymple Senior Advocate, Mr. Patrick Grant
of Easter-Elchies, John Campbell late Provost of Edin-
burgh, Alexander Arbuthnot of Knox, Mr. Charles Binning
of Pilmore Advocate, Dr. Alexander Dundas His Majesty's
Physician, Mr. Robert Craigie of Glendoig Advocate, Mr.
Alexander Belches of Invermay, John Osburn late Baillie in
Edinburgh, James Nimmo late Baillie there, and Mr. John
Dundas Writer to His Majesty's Signet, Ruling-Elders ;
 To

To be a Committee for the Ends mentioned in the fore-
 said Royal Gift, and the 6th Act of the late General
 Assembly, intituled, *Commission by the General Assembly to
 some Ministers and Ruling-Elders, for Reformation of the
 Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for Management of
 the King's Bounty for that End*; And grant to the Com-
 mittee now named, the whole Powers given the foresaid
 Committee, and appoints them to proceed according
 therunto in all Points, and to prosecute the Orders and
 Resolutions of the former Committee: And further, to
 enquire how the Ministers, Preachers and Catechists,
 named by that Committee, did obey, and to censure such
 as have not performed their Missions, as they shall see
 Cause; also to name a Cashier for receiving and giv-
 ing out the foresaid Royal Bounty; and to call for
 and state the Cashiers Accounts, and lay the same be-
 fore the Commissioners of Treasury, or Barons of His
 Majesty's Exchequer, and to apply what remains of the
 last Year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by Reason of
 any of the Missionaries their not fulfilling the Appointments
 on them. And which Committee are to have their
 Meetings at *Edinburgh* upon the *Fridays*, at Nine of the
 Clock Forenoon, next after the Meetings of the Com-
 mission of the General Assembly in *May* current, *August*,
November and *March* next, with Power to adjourn them-
 selves to such Times and Places as they shall see Cause;
 and their first Meeting to be in the Assembly-house the
 first Day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Eight
 of the Clock in the Morning; And which Committee are
 impowered to name a Sub-committee to meet upon the
 last *Wednesday* of every Month, at Four of the Clock After-
 noon, with Power to adjourn themselves, to receive Let-
 ters, Petitions and Representations, and prepare Matters,
 and execute the Orders of the Committee in the Intervals
 of their Meetings; And likewise impowers this Com-
 mittee to nominate Ministers and Elders, though not of
 their Number, to meet with the Protestant Heritors, to
 concert Measures for advancing the Interest of true Reli-
 gion in the foresaid Countries. And which Ministers and
 Elders are hereby ordained to join with the Synod of
Glenelg, and the Presbyteries in the Bounds of that Synod,
 in their Meetings, and be assisting to them therein as
 Members; And ordains the foresaid Synod and Presbye-
 ries, and other Presbyteries concerned, to draw up and
 send to the said Committee from Time to Time, distinct
 Informations of the State of their Bounds, particularly
 as to Popery, and the Success of the Missionaries, and
 what Discouragements they meet with.

VII.

*Commission to some Ministers and Ruling-Elders, for discussing diverse Affairs referred to them.**Edinburgh, May 17th, 1726. Sess. 13.*

HB General Assembly taking to their Consideration, That there are diverse weighty Affairs which they cannot overtake, do nominate, commissionate and appoint their Reverend Brethren, Mr. William Mitchel, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh their Moderator, Masters George Frier at Lethendy, James Fisher at Kincleavin, Robert Bowes at Rattray, Alexander M'Logan at Little-Dunkeld, Andrew Darling at Kinnoul, Robert Lyon at Kinsawns, Lauchlan M'Intosh at Erroll, James Macky at Forteviot, John Drummond at Crieff, William Hunter at Gask, William Duncan at Monivaird, John Warden at Gargunnoch, Henry Lindsay at Bothkenner, John M'Callum at Callender, Michael Potter at Keppen, Samuel Charters at Innerkeithing, Allan Logan at Culross, John Liston at Aberdour, Robert Ponton at Kennoway, Thomas Melvil at Scoony, John Cleghorn at Weemyss, William Greenlees at Ceres, John Stark at Logie, Thomas Thomson at Auchtermuchty, James Monro at Kettle, James Hadow Principal of the New College of St. Andrews, Joseph Pitcairn at Kingsbarns, James Robertson at Leuchars, John Craigie at St. Monance, Joseph Drew Principal of St. Leonard's College of St. Andrews, David Thomson at Meikle, Laurence Brown at Lentrathin, Alexander Finlayson at Essie, Robert Young at Innerarity, Andrew Arnot at Denichan, John Willison at Dundee, James Ogilvy at Inchstare, James Goodfry at Monkie, James Small at Carmylie, William Hepburn at Innerkiellor, John Martine at Oshlow, David Fergusson at Farnal, Robert Steven at Craig, James Mitchel at Dunnotar, William Arnot at Bervie, Henry Hamilton at Glenbervie, Lewis Reid at Strachan, John Shepherd at Logiecolston, Patrick Gardon at Lumphanan, Thomas Blackwell Principal of the College of New Aberdeen, David Anderson Professor of Divinity in the King's College of Aberdeen,

deon, James Chalmers at Aberdeen, John Bisset at Newmachir, George Chalmers Principal of the King's College of Aberdeen, George Moir at Towie, James Gordon at Alford, Patrick Copland at Touch, William Anderson at Daviot, Gilbert Gerard at Garioch, George Gordon at Bourty, William Forbes at Tarves, Alexander Gordon at Foverain, John Lumisdan at Longside, James Lesly at Crimond, John Mercer at Tyrie, George Gordon at Kingedward, Thomas Scot at Fyvie, James Towers at Ordoquahill, Alexander Philip at Deskford, Hugh Innes at Mortlich, Robert Duff at Aberlour, George Gordon at Boharm, Alexander Fraser at Inveraven, William Blair at Kingussie, James Thomson at Elgin, William Dougal at Spynie, James Gilchrist at Esle, John Crockett at Dalas, John Squire at Forrest, William Stewart at Inverness, Alexander McBean there, George Gordon at Cromarty, Alexander Reay at Ardoch, Alexander Fraser at Uquhart, Thomas Chisholm at Kilmerack, David Ross at Tarbat, Walter Ross at Kilmuireaster, John McKay at Larg, Francis Robertson at Clyne, William Innes at Tharso, Hugh Cors at Bower, William Rose at Kildonan, George Brodie at Edrathillie, James Smith at Gairloch, Eneas Sage at Lochcarron, Thomas Fraser at Boleskine, James McGilchrist at Kilmalie, Daniel McAulay at Braccadale, Archibald McQueen at Snizort, Daniel Morison at Stornavoy, Colin McKenna at Loths, William Scot at Kirkwall, Thomas Galloway at Darness, John Kierth at Walls, Andrew Giles at Birsay, Alexander Nisbet at Shapenshay, Thomas Coventry at Sanday, Robert Gray at Nesting, Andrew Fiskine at Delling, William Hamilton Professor of Divinity in the College of Edinburgh, John Flint at Edinburgh, Matthew Wood there, George Fordyce at Corstorphine, William Brown at Edinburgh, John Spark at Currie, William Wiseheart Principal of the College of Edinburgh, John Brand at Borrowstonness, John Lookup at Midcaldor, John Wilkie at Uphall, James Nasmyth at Dalmeny, Thomas Simpson at Broughton, John Bowie at Dolphington, Alexander Walker at Kircard, Alexander Coupar at Traquair, Gilbert Hutchison at Lyne, William McGeorge at Pennycook, David Walker at Temple, James Burnet at Lesswade, James Alston at Disloun, Mathew Simpson at Pancaitland, Patrick Wilkie at Haddington, Thomas Finlay at Prestonkirk, George Logan at Dunbar, John Campbell at Cranshaws, Thomas Turnbull at Greenlaw, Gilbert Laurie at Hutton, John Pow at Caldstream, George Hume at Chirnside, Robert Colvill at Tetholm, James Chrystie at Marbottle, John Gilchrist at Bedrule, Hugh Kennedy at Cavers, Charles Falser at Hawick, Walter Scot at Waftruther, James Cunningham at Smetholm,

William Hunter at Lilliesleaf, David Brown at Selkirk, Thomas Howie at Annan, Alexander Melville at Langholm, David Wightman at Applegirth, John Whitehead at Mouswell, Patrick Cumie at Lochmaben, Robert Jardeh at Glencairn, John Lawson at Closeburn, John Somerville at Carlawerock, John Campbell at Kirkbucc, Edward Bankle at Kirkmach, William Tod at Bootle, James Roman at Parton, Alexander Mairland at Tongland, Robert Seron at Glassertoun, John McCaul at Whitburn, Robert Fergusson at Calmonel, James Tweeddale at Oldlucy, William Mairland at Mauchlin, John M'Dermid at Air, John Grant at Auchinleck, Alexander Orr at Muirkirk, William Cuyler at Kirkoswald, Hugh Falside at Loudoun, John Montgomery at Stewarton, James Semple at Dregburn, Niel Campbell at Renfrew, Robert Johnston at Kilbarchan, Walter Menzies at Erskine, John Scot at Stenness, Matthew Connel at Kilbride, John Wiseman at Newmonkland, Thomas Linnen at Lesmahago, James Garrioch at Carmichael, Robert Davidson at Cranford, John Hamilton at Glasgow, John M' Laurin there, James Rob at Kilsyth, John Stirling Principal of the College of Glasgow, James Bayne at Bonhill, James Livingston at Strathblane, John Allan at Row, Alexander Campbell at Inverary, Patrick Pollock at Knapdale, William Campbell at Kilmoden, Walter Campbell at Dundon, Douglas Campbell at Southend, John Campbell at Illy, Archibald Campbell at Lesmore, and William Marison at Tirres, Ministers: The Most Honourable John Marquis of Tweeddale, the Right Honourable David Earl of Buchan, Charles Earl of Lauderdale, Thomas Earl of Haddington, James Earl of Findlater, Alexander Earl of Marchmont, James Earl of Hyndford, David Earl of Glasgow, Archibald Earl of Illy, William Lord Ross, James Lord Torphichen, George Lord Reay, Sir Hugh Dalrymple of Northberwick Baronet, Lord President of the Session, Duncan Forbes Esq; His Majesty's Advocate, Adam Cockburn of Ormiston Lord Justice Clerk, Sir John Maxwell of Nether-Pallock Baronet, Sir Alexander Ogilvie of Forglan Baronet, Mr. James Erskine of Grange, Mr. James Hamilton of Penicuik, Sir Andrew Home of Kinnierghame, Sir Walter Pringle of Newhall, Seven of the Senators of the College of Justice, Sir John Clark of Pennicuik Baronet, one of the Barons of his Majesty's Exchequer, Mr. Charles Erskine of Barjarg His Majesty's Solicitor, Patrick Small of Dianoch, Patrick Teaman of Eastmill, Alexander Belfbes of Innermay, Mr. Robert Craigie of Glendoig, William Fergusson Provost of Perth, Sir James Campbell of Aberachil, Baronet, Alexander Johnston of Kirkland, Colin Campbell of Kilbride Esq; Colonel John Erskine of Carnock, George Balfour

four of Balbrake, Mr. Robert Hay of Naughton, Mr. James McGill of Rankie, Dr. John Mowbray of Ramsey, Mr. Charles Gregory Professor of Mathematicks in the College of St. Andrews, Patrick Drummond of Garran, George Lyon Baillie in Dundee, William Wallace Provost of Abarbrothwick, Robert White Baillie in Brichton, Alexander Arbuthnot of Kye, Colonel Robert Reid of Redfield, Robert Stewart Provost of Aberdeen, William Crookbank Baillie there, Mr. George Gordon Professor of the Oriental Languages in the College of Aberdeen, John Forbes of Balfarg, Mr. Alexander Irving of Saphock, George Fordyce of Bradford, Mr. Alexander Gordon of Troop Advocate, Mr. Robert Dunbar of Kyrhill, Mr. Patrick Grant of Easter Elchies Advocate, James Grant of That-ill, Joseph Brodie of Mitroon, James Cramond Baillie in Elgin, Hugh Ross of Kilsnock, Robert Logan Baillie in Forres, William McLean Baillie in Inverness, Mr. Alexander Gordon of Hradob, George Meade of Tamlair, Hugh Ross of Braclawell, Mr. John Sinclair Advocate, Sir John Gordon of Embo Baronet, William McLeod of Hamer, Hector McLean of Odell, Captain Alexander Abercrombie of Glassoch, Andrew Backie of Hoy, George Dalfour of Trinabee Baillie of Westray, Captain James Craigie in Lerwick, Doctor Alexander Dundas His Majesty's Physician, Mr. Robert Stewart Regent in the College of Edinburgh, John Osburn late Baillie in Edinburgh, George Drummond Esq. Lord Provost of Edinburgh, David McClellan Deacon Conveener there, George Dundas of That-ill, Alexander Mitchell of That-ill, John Dundas of Newhall, Mr. Alexander Menzies of Culterallas Advocate, William Murray of Spittalburgh, Mr. Robert Dundas of Arncliffe younger, Charles Brown of Colston, Mr. Alexander Hamilton of Pancatland younger, Sir Robert Dalrymple of Castleton, Patrick Hepburn of Spicton, Andrew Hume Surgeon in Kells, Archibald Douglas of Cavers, Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto, Mr. Charles Binning of Palmore, Robert Rutherford of Fernylee, Sir William Johnson of Westerhall Baronet, Mr. Robert Ford Baillie of Moffat, Alexander Fergusson of Craigdarroch, John Crichton of Carco, James Currie late Provost of Dumfries, Mr. David Newall in Waterside, Mr. Andrew Reid in Monagass, Sir Charles Hay of Park Baronet, Colonel William Dalrymple of Glenmore, Mr. James Boswell of Auchinleck Advocate, Captain John Campbell of Walwood, Charles Dalrymple of Langlands, James Montgomery of Pearson, Alexander Glasford Baillie of Paisley, Sir James Stewart of Goodrees Baronet, John Somervail Baillie in Renfrew, Thomas Carmichael of Eastend, John Aird late Provost of Glasgow, John Stark present Provost there, Mr. John Campbell,

Campbell of Mamore, Mr. George Smollet of Inglisfow Advocate, Alexander M'Millen younger of Dunmore, James Nimmo late Baillie in Edinburgh, Sir James Campbell of Ardkinglass Baronet, James Campbell of Eriska, Patrick Campbell of Inverisland, John Campbell late Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and Sir Duncan Campbell of Loshnell, Ruling Elders; To be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the Effects aftermentioned; with Power to the said Commissioners, or their Quorum, which is hereby declared to be any Thirty one of the said Commissioners, whereof Twenty one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly house at Edinburgh, the first free Day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Ten of the Clock Forenoon, and afterwards the second Wednesdays of August, November and March next to come, and oftner, when and where they shall think fit and convenient; with Power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator. And scklike the General Assembly fully Impowers and Authorises their said Commissioners, or their Quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Assembly; and to do every Thing contain'd in, and conform to the Instructions given or to be given by this Assembly, and to advert to the Interests of the Church on every Occasion, that the Church and present Establishment thereof do not suffer or sustain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Providing always that this general Clause be not extended to particular Affairs, or Processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal Concern to, or Influence upon the whole Church. And 'tis hereby appointed, that no private Processes be determined, except at the four stated Diets, and what shall be determined at one Diet of the said Commission, with Relation to private Causes, shall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in Force till disapproved by the General Assembly. And the General Assembly renews the Instructions given by the General Assembly anno 1717, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full Force, as Instructions to the Commissioners above-named, and to be observed by them in all Points, as if the same were specially here insert: And that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of Books and Pamphlets, tending towards the Promoting of Opinions of whatever Kind, inconsistent with our Confession of Faith; and that the Recommenders of such Books or Pamphlets, or the Errors therein contained, whether by Word, Writ or Print,

Print; be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any References and Appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in Matters of Doctrine, and ripen such Affairs for the General Assembly. Likewise to take Care that the Impressions of the Holy Scriptures, the Confession of Faith and Catechisms, and such Books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government thereof, be correct, and to give Direction about printing the same. They are also appointed, at their first Meeting, to take under Consideration all Representations of the Growth of Popery, within the Bounds of this National Church, and of Meeting-Houses not authorised by Law, which have been brought up to this and former Assemblies, or Commissions thereof, or that may be further offered to this Commission, and to apply to the Government for a proper Remedy, and speedy Redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other Matters, than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned: And in all their Actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitutions of this National Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the same: Declaring, that in and for all their Actings they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see Cause. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed. And Members are required to attend the Diets of the said Commission, and Absents therefrom ordered to be noticed, according to the Seventeenth Act of the General Assembly, anno 1706. And for the better securing of a *Quorum*, and Attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, and other Presbyteries within Twelve Miles thereof, to meet any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meeting of this Commission; and such of the Members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required all of them to give punctual Attendance on the Diets thereof: And Presbyteries at a greater Distance, who have Four or more Members on the Commission, are to take Care that at least two of them attend each Diet of the same.

Print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive and examine the said Papers, and shall be made to them from Synods, in Matters of Discipline, and upon such Affairs as the General Assembly shall think fit to take Care of. In the Impression of the Holy Scriptures, the Commission of Faith and Catechising, and

VIII.

Act making an Alteration in the Form of Commissions from Universities.

Edinburgh, May 17th, 1726, Post Merid. Sess. 13.
The General Assembly considering that the present Form of the Commissions from Universities does not agree to the State of some Universities; Therefore they do hereby appoint that, in Place of the Words preceeding *(and hereby do)* in the Beginning of the said Form, the Words following be inserted, viz. *The which Day a Meeting of the University of — being called and convened, they did and hereby do, &c.*

IX.

Act regulating Transportations of Ministers settled in Highland Congregations.

Edinburgh, May 17th, 1726, Sess. 13.
The General Assembly considering how necessary it is to be particularly careful that Highland Congregations be planted with well qualified Ministers, and that the Settlement of such Congregations as are to be planted may not be unnecessarily disturbed; Therefore they hereby ratify and confirm all former Acts made for Planting Preachers and Ministers in the Highlands, who have the *Irish* Language, and concerning the Transporting of Ministers from the Highlands to the Lowlands; and further appoint and ordain, That no Transportation from the Highlands to the Lowlands, nor from one Part of the Highlands to another, be granted, nor any Act or Thing be done by any Judicature,

capture, which directly tends thereunto, without duly calling all concerned, and hearing them thereupon, and examining the Sufficiency and Proof of the Reasons on both Sides of the Question: And the Assembly hereby declares and ordains, that from any Highland Place, especially where Popery abounds, a Minister shall not be transported, nor any Step be made towards the same, but upon great and weighty Reasons, and for the evident Good of the Church of CHRIST. And moreover, that in Highland Parishes, wherein Popery abounds, no Minister shall be transported, nor any Thing done leading thereto, but by the General Assembly of this Church, except it be to another Highland Parish wherein Popery does also prevail.

X.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, May 18th 1726. Self. ult. RA. V

TH next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held at Edinburgh, upon the First Thursday of May next to come, One thousand seven hundred and twenty seven Years.

The General Assembly was concluded with Prayer, singing of the Church Psalm throughout, and pronouncing the Blessing.

Collected and Entered from the Records of the General Assembly by

James Gordon Secretary.

